

20/20 Inner City Development (City Centre/Urban Design) Subcommittee

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the 20/20 Inner City Development (City Centre/Urban Design) Subcommittee will be held in the Council Chamber, Forum North, Whangarei on:

**Thursday
14 March 2013
9.00am**

Subcommittee of:
Council

Committee
Cr P R Halse (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor
Cr S J Deeming
Cr A J Edwards
Cr G M Martin
Cr K J Sutherland
Cr M R Williams

1. Project Update - 20/20 Inner City Development

Reporting officer Paul Dell (Group Manager District Living)
Nick Karlovsky (Urban Design Specialist)

Date of meeting 14 March 2013

Vision, mission and values

This item is in accord with Council's vision, mission and values statement as these projects will contribute to the vision of creating a vibrant, attractive and thriving District as they will enhance the 'sense of place' through the enhancement of key CBD streetscapes, and the Town Basin interface between the CBD and the waters edge. The resulting living environment will mean different things to different sectors of our Community. These projects will enhance the experience of the CBD for these various sectors.

CBD Stage 1` Laneway

The project to extend the pedestrianised condition of the Cameron Street Mall one block further east along Cameron Street and half a block Northwards along James Street towards the Robert Street intersection was presented to the 20/20 Inner City Development Subcommittee on 17 October 2012. After public consultation earlier in the year staff had refined the Laneway option (retaining a narrow one way traffic lane in a shared space configuration) to developed design stage, including a transparent canopy over the Cameron James intersection and a second smaller canopy intended to provide all weather cover across Cameron Street from Quality Street.

The Subcommittee accepted the recommendations: that the report be received, that the project proceeds to further stakeholder consultation and detailed design, and that the final design be presented to Council for approval.

The developed design was presented to a stakeholders group on 31 October 2012 where the design was well received by the stakeholders present, subject to further resolution of delivery vehicle parking and attention to vandal proofing the canopies. The developed design was also presented to representatives from the Positive Aging Advisory Group and the Disability Advisory Group at a meeting on 8 November 2012. Comments and advice from that meeting related to; seating (consider arm rests at least at one end and varying heights noting that some elderly preferred higher seats); parking (provide all parks in affected area for disabled only); paving (curbless approach and distinctly coloured edges positive for accessibility – honed Firth blocks favoured for grip from samples provided); canopy (support structure could be 'stand-out decorative' as opposed to 'blend in grey').

Detailed design of the paving and fixtures have since been completed by Council staff and detailed civil engineering design has been commenced by Opus International Consultants Ltd on drainage, pavement, traffic layout and lighting. A design brief and tender document has been drafted for a design build tender for the Cameron James canopy and will be available for advertising once the funding is available. Similarly once Opus have completed their design work a separate tender document will be prepared for the Laneway construction. Again, this will be held until funding is available.

Looped Walkway and Waiarohia Walk / Cycle Bridge

The design work for the Looped Walkway has been completed and tender documents prepared. All the necessary consents for the walkway have been gained and the requirements for the Rally course have been integrated into the design. The tender document will be advertised once funding is available.

The tender for the Walk / Cycle opening bridge across the Waiarohia stream was advertised last year and as a result a successful contractor consortium was selected for further negotiations. Due to the current funding situation staff have been negotiating with the contractor on various options to reduce the cost to the targeted design build.

Carpark to Park

This project envisages the transformation of the informal carpark area between the Market Bridge and Dent Street into a premium outdoor amenity park linking the CBD and the Town Basin.

On 31 October 2011 the 20/20 Inner City Development Subcommittee approved three concept designs produced by Reset Urban Design to go out to public consultation.

Public engagement was undertaken during December 2012 and January 2013. A stall was set up at the Artisan's Fair on two successive Saturdays in December and a public meeting was held at Reyburn House on December 15. The concepts were displayed in the Whangarei Library foyer and on Council's website along with feedback forms. 238 feedback forms have been returned to Council. The project was also presented to the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on 20 February 2013. The YAG have undertaken to present a submission form collectively to Council's Urban Designer at their next meeting on 20 March 2013. A full summary of public feedback will be presented to the Committee subsequent to that date.

Project Prioritisation

Working closely with the Infrastructure and Services Group Manager the various projects have been prioritised along with other deferred Council projects. At this time staff recommendation is that the Looped Walkway including the Waiarohia Walk/Cycle Bridge be the priority projects in the Inner City Development programme when funding becomes available: There is still design and planning work to be done on the Laneway proposal so no urgency is seen for this project in the next 12 months.

The Carpark to Park project is still in its early consultation and design phase and is not programmed for construction until late in the 2014/15 Annual Plan period.

Recommendation

That the report be received.